

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

5 OCTOBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Brazil

a. Goulart continues to play both ends against the middle. 50X1

b. [redacted]
[redacted] his request to Congress for a state of siege to come to a vote before next Tuesday. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

50X1

50X1

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50X1

50X1

d. War Minister Jair Ribeiro ordered the arrest of Lacerda yesterday; the order was later rescinded probably pending the outcome of the state of siege request.

e. Lacerda's arrest without proper constitutional grounds could well have set in motion a military coup against Goulart.

f. In the next few days, with the general state of confusion in Brazil compounded by yesterday's events, and political maneuvering growing even more frenetic, almost anything could happen.

2. Egypt-Yemen

a. The Egyptians may be on the verge of some key policy decision on Yemen. The commanders of the Egyptian air force and navy are now in Yemen where they have joined Marshal Amer and Anwar Sadat, one of Nasir's top political aides.

b. It is just possible that these men are there to assess the consequences of some self-generated Yemeni solution stemming from the Umran conference last month of 3,000 Yemeni figures representing both Republican and Royalist elements.

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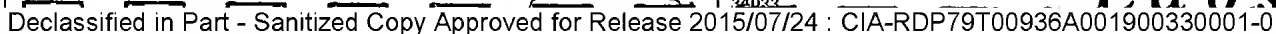
3. Algeria

a. Government forces and Berber dissidents have still not come to grips with each other but the day may not be far off.

b. The leaders of the revolt have rejected Ben Bella's invitation for discussions and claim he must be overthrown.

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(Cont'd)



d. Meanwhile Ben Bella has taken measures to put his own house in order prior to departure for the UN general assembly session next Thursday. Taking advantage of Defense Minister Boumedienne's shopping trip to Moscow, he has named Colonel Tahar Zbiri--no friend of Boumedienne's-- as Chief of Staff. Boumedienne previously wore both hats.

e. The press reports that the Moroccan and Algerian foreign ministers will meet today at Oujda on the Moroccan side to discuss recent border tension. Ben Bella charges Morocco with supporting the Berbers.

[REDACTED]

50X1

4. Laos

a. Now that the dry season has arrived, truck convoys from North Vietnam into Laos are moving more regularly again.

[REDACTED]

50X1


a substantial infusion of troops and supplies during the past two weeks.

b. The Communists are probably now in position to resume their game of political pressure and military pecking.

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For The President Only - Top Secret

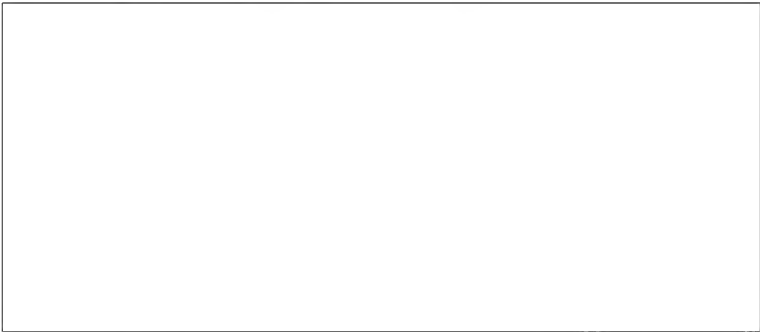
c. Right wing and neutralist forces appear fairly well dug in on the western edge of the Plaine des Jarres. However, further south non-Communist forces would probably not be able to hold out against significant enemy pressure.



50X1

5. South Vietnam

a. A sixth Buddhist monk burned himself to death this morning and in the ensuing melee three reporters, including Halberstam (New York Times), were beaten up by police.



50X1

NOTES

- A. Venezuela The Supreme Court has upheld Betancourt's decree suspending the Communist Party and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, but it is not clear whether the ruling gives the government the legal basis to continue detention of leftist congressmen. [redacted] quoting a Communist student leader as saying that if the arrested congressmen are not released at the end of 96 hours (today), as provided in the constitution, the Communists will launch an all-out campaign of violence.
- B. Soviet wheat deals A trade source in Canada has told the US Embassy that Matveev, head of the Soviet trade delegation, has returned to Ottawa. The source speculated Matveev is waiting in the wings for a US decision on grain sales.
- C. Iraq-Syria Some form of union between the two countries may not be far off. The international leadership of the Baath Party is scheduled to meet soon in Damascus. Though Iraq so far has been the reluctant bride, the recent exchange of military forces between the two countries suggests the Baghdad regime is changing its mind.
- D. Honduras Central American governments are criticizing the overthrow of Villeda, but we do not think they will propose strong measures against the new regime. Non-recognition would get in the way of the Central American Common Market. The foreign ministers of El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua are to meet in Managua tomorrow to adopt a common policy.

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